THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Since November, 1983, when the Special Approvals Committee was set up, 232 applications have been approved in the field of electronics industries and another 147 applications have been approved in the fields of engineering and metallurgical industries.

(b) The largest number of applications approved are from NRI investors from U.S.A.

P.M.'s tour of Tamil Nadu

1618. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of visits made by the Prime Minister to Tamil Nadu during 1988 and 1989;

(b) how many of these visits were classified as official and how many as private or political; and

(c) what is the total amount of expenditure incurred by tht Central and the State Governments on these visits?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The Prime Minister made twelve visits to Tamil Nadu from January, 1988 to January, 1989.

(b) Of these, nine visits were for officials purposes and three for unofficial purposes.

(c) The Prime Minister uses Indian Air Force aircraft for tours. Recoveries at the prescibed rates are made for journeys performed for non-official purposes. The State Governments make arrangements for security and maintenance of law and order when the Prime Minister visits the States. Information as to the expenditure incurred on these items by the State Governments are not compiled by the Central Government.

Violation of FERA by the Chairman, Bombay Dyeing

1619. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a case has been registered against the Chairman, Bombay Dyeing, who is a British citizen, under Section 19 (1) (e) of FERA for his foreign investment on 48000 shares in Nepal based sterling industrial agencies without the permission of R.B.I. ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Directorate of Enforcement (FERA) has initiated adjudication proceedings by issue of a show cause notice to Shri Nusli Wadia for acquisition of 48000 shares of paid up value of Rs. 3,18,000/- of M/s. Sterling Industrial Agencies Pvt. Ltd., Kathmandu, Nepal, without the permission of R.B.I., in violation of the provisions of section 19 (1) (e) of the F.E.R. Act, 1973. Shri Nusli Wadia has obtained stay order from the Bombay High Court against the adjudication proceedings.

Escape of Smugglers from Porbandar Jail

1620. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seven smugglers involved in smuggling a huge quantity of gold escaped from Porbandar jail in the last week of September, 1988 because of the inept handling of the matter by the police and the Customs department;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these smugglers were unsuually ordered to be released even before two months and that too without examining the solvency of the person who stood surety for them contrary to the accepted norms; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take against the erring staff of the police and the Customs department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHR AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) It is not a fact that seven smugglers involved in smuggling a huge quantity of gold escaped from Porbandar Jail in the last week of September, 1988. Seven Pakistani nationals had been arrested by the Customs Officers at Porbandar on 15th September, 1988 for being involved in the smuggling of gold worth Rs. five crores approximately. They were remanded to judicial custody on 16th September, 1988 and thereafter released on bail on 29th September, 1988 by the Judicial Magistrate First Class Porbandar after accepting a cash security of Rs. 10,000 and surety of Rs. one lakh each with the condition that the accused should not leave the jurisdiction of the Porbandar Magistrate and appear before the Porbandar Customs Officers twice a week. The Customs department found that the surety furnished was that of a dead person and, therefore, moved the Magistrate for cancellation of the bail but the accused had absconded in the meantime. The Judicial Magistrate First Class, Porbandar cancelled the bail and issued arrest warrants against all the accused.

(c) The bond and surety had been accepted by the Judicial Magistrate First Class, Porbandar. Since no involvement of Police or Customs officers has come to light, no action has been initiated against any one of them.

Appeal by Christian churches in Assembly elections

1621. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Christian churches and priests issued appeals to the electorate to vote in a particular direction in the recent Assembly elections; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is fact that some religious authorities issued appeals to electorate to vote in a particular direction in Tamil Nadu Assembly elections; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken any measures to counter this religious propaganda, if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) The Election Commission has stated that no information has been received by it about any alleged appeal on religious grounds issued by churches, priests etc. in the recently held general elections to the Legistive Assemblies in the States of Nagaland and Tamil Nadu. So far as the general elections to the Legislative Assembly of the State of Mizoram is concerned, there have been reports in the press about such an alleged appeal by some churches. However, the text of the appeal is not available with the Election Commission or with the Government.

(b) No such information has been received either by the Election Commission or by the Government.

(c) Statutory provisions exist even now. According to section 123 (3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the appeal by a candidate or his agent or by any other person with the consent of a candidate or his election agent to vote or refrain from voting for any person, *inter-alia*, on the ground of religion is a corrupt practice. The Model Code of Conduct for the guidance of political